



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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FBIS-AFR-90-070

CONTENTS

11 April 1990

NOTICE TO READERS: * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

* Continent Looks at Perestroyka; Changes Noted /Port Louis LE MAURICIEN 7 Mar/ 1

EAST AFRICA

Ethiopia

Government-Eritrean Front Talks Resume in Sanaa /Sanaa Radio/	2
Plans for Negotiations Discussed /AFP/	2
Progress Reported in Talks /Kuwait KUNA/	2
EPLF Figure Interviewed /London AL-MAJALLAH 10 Apr/	2
EPLF Forces Repulse Government Attack 9 Apr /Voice of Eritrean Broad Masses/	3
1,500 Government Troops Said Killed /Voice of Eritrean Broad Masses/	3
EPLF: Government Air Raids on Mitsiwa, Afabet /Voice of Eritrean Broad Masses/	4

Uganda

Culture Minister Arrested for 'Treason' /AFP/	4
---	---

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Nelson Mandela To Meet UK's Thatcher 'Later' /SAPA/	5
Mandela Rejects Talks With Inkatha's Buthelezi /Lusaka Radio/	5
Foreign Minister Pik Botha Interviewed /East Berlin ADN/	5
Qwaqwa Chief Minister Admitted to Hospital /SAPA/	6
SAPA Reports Production Figures for Jan, Feb	6
11 Apr Press Review on Current Problems, Issues /THE STAR, etc./	6

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Angola

Commentary Criticizes 'Distorted' U.S. Position /ANGOP/	8
UNITA Reports 10 Apr Military Situation /Voice of the Black Cockerel/	8
* UNITA Admits Mavinga Situation 'Confusing' /Lisbon O DIABO 27 Feb/	9
* Possible Advisers to MPLA Listed /Lisbon O DIABO 27 Feb/	10

Malawi

* Policy Toward South Africa Proved 'Correct' /MALAWI NEWS 10-16 Feb/	11
---	----

Mauritius

* Duval Misses Appointments for Medical Reasons	11
* Absent From PMSD Meeting /L'EXPRESS 29 Jan/	11
* Suffering From Hypertension /THE SUN 24 Feb/	11

Namibia

Gurirab Says Diplomatic Relations Important /Windhoek Radio/	11
--	----

* **Continent Looks at Perestroyka; Changes Noted**

90EF0314A Port Louis *LE MAURICIEN* in French
7 Mar 90 p 3

[First paragraph is *LE MAURICIEN* lead; second paragraph is *LE MAURICIEN* introduction]

[Text] Ten or so one-party rulers in the black continent are getting ready to initiate reforms.

East Europe is not the only place where the statues of Marx, Engels, and Lenin, the three thought masters of Marxism-Leninism, are being toppled from their pedestals. In Africa also, in states that had adopted their doctrine, they have begun to lose their eminence as points of reference.

More or less spurred on by the crisis and social troubles they are experiencing, Mozambique, Benin, Congo, Angola, and Ethiopia have, in turn, and to various extents, undertaken to reform themselves, sometimes making radical changes.

To be sure, Marxism—which, for a long time, was judged by African progressives to be the only appropriate answer to the “neocolonialism and imperialism” of the West—was, more often than not, only a veneer on an instinctively communal, but also conservative and spiritualistic, society.

In fact, beyond the slogans, the starstamped red symbols, and the support marches in which the people were strongly invited to participate, the doctrine had remained the business of a clan, itself divided into what it was convenient to call radicals and moderates. As for the people, confronted with a very often difficult daily life, they remained outside the upheavals caused by a purge, a “rectification,” or an umpteenth coup, all of which remained in their eyes nothing more than the sport of kings.

But the democratization of the East European countries—with its parade of denunciations of abuses, if not of tyranny, local nomenclaturas, and recorded economic failures—led several Marxist African countries to reconsider their position.

The first country to negotiate its reversal was Mozambique, South Africa’s immediate neighbor, bled white by an endless rebellion, and economically and financially ruined.

The authorities implemented the change in two stages. To begin with, the regime abandoned Marxist planning in 1987 and launched a program of economic recovery based on spectacular liberalization, Draconian decrease in subventions, and incitement to production. Then, in

1989, the single party, the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo)—which has been in office since the 1975 independence—decided during its convention to remove all references to Marxism-Leninism from its program.

Moreover, Chief of State Joaquim Chissano has expressed the desire to have a “direct dialogue” with the rebel Mozambique National Resistance Movement (Renamo), and has declared being ready to accept changes in all domains, on the condition that they be made “in peace and through the democratic process.”

After 13 years of absolute power, Mathieu Kerekou, the Beninese president, has learned from the failure of his regime. Not content with renouncing Marxism-Leninism a few weeks ago, he recently, and literally, sacrificed himself by accepting the democratization of the institutions, a move imposed on him by a national conference that had gathered the active forces of the nation, including opposition representatives.

Without waiting for the elections scheduled for January 1991, Benin has even switched from being a “people’s republic,” to simply being the “Republic of Benin.”

Even though in the Congo, another people’s republic, the authorities believe that “multiple parties” are not suitable for the country, they have, nonetheless, planned to review the repercussions of perestroyka on the Congo, during the Congolese Labor Party (PCT-One Party) convention to be held next June. Meanwhile, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, who is facing opposition from the university, went to the United States—from which he hopes to get aid to tackle the current economic crisis—to explain that his government has never claimed to be socialist, “even if, in the long run, it aims at the edification of socialism.”

Angola and Ethiopia—the only Marxist-Leninist countries in which the Soviet Union became militarily involved through the dispatch of several thousand advisers and a Cuban expeditionary corps—are considering timid changes. The former leans toward an “expansion of democracy,” while the latter is proposing to study the nature of the party, the economic system, and international relations. President Kenneth Kaunda also announced on 6 March a possible reform of the Zambian One Party.

Madagascar and Burkina Faso, which had also committed themselves to the socialist way, should begin to undertake a democratization process.

Zimbabwe is the only country to run counter to this trend. After having multiple parties until now, the authorities have announced the forthcoming creation of a single Marxist-Leninist party.

Ethiopia

Government-Eritrean Front Talks Resume in Sanaa

JN0604133490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] The preparatory negotiations between Socialist Ethiopia and the delegation of Eritrean Liberation Front factions resumed last night at the Foreign Ministry under the chairmanship of brother Ahmad al-Iryani, head of the Central Authority for Inspection and Accounting.

SABA* NEWS AGENCY has learned that during these negotiations, the participants endorsed a work schedule and the procedures for the Sanaa preparatory meetings for dialogue between the Ethiopian Government and Eritrean Liberation Front delegations.

Plans for Negotiations Discussed

AB0904214090 Paris AFP in French 1622 GMT
7 Apr 90

[Text] Sanaa, 7 Apr (AFP)—Ethiopia and a delegation encompassing representatives of the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) and three other separatist organizations, are in Sanaa discussing modalities for opening negotiations on the future of Eritrea, an Eritrean source has disclosed.

"We are discussing the modalities for opening peace negotiations." This was told to AFP by Mr. Mohammed Said Greich, one of the members of the Eritrean delegation, who described the Sanaa talks, which opened 1 April under the auspices of the North Yemeni Government, as "preliminary".

According to him, the major topic being discussed was the issue of the third parties that would supervise any future peace plans. The Eritrean delegation is demanding that future negotiations be conducted under the auspices of the United Nations and in the presence of observers from the Arab League, the OAU, the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO), and the European Parliament, he said.

For its part, Addis Ababa rejects any international supervision, but agrees that these negotiations should be placed under the auspices of one or more of the Arab and African countries in the region, Mr. Greich went on.

The Sanaa talks are taking place without the participation of the main and most active Eritrean movement in the field, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF).

Mr. Hamad Mohammed Said, representative for the Gulf Region of one of the movements taking part in the Sanaa talks, expressed in a 7 April statement the hope the EPLF would join the Sanaa talks.

Mr. Said, the representative of the unified organization, expressed the desire to see all Eritrean separatist movements form a single delegation for future negotiations with Addis Ababa. He believed the talks made little

progress in view of the presence within the Ethiopian delegation of "Eritrean elements who have joined Addis Ababa."

In the face of the refusal by the Eritrean movements to talk with these "elements," the North Yemen Government succeeded in keeping them away from the negotiations, thus avoiding a break between the two sides, Mr. Said further stated.

Apart from the ELF and the unified organization, two other movements—the National Council and the Revolutionary Council—are being represented within the Eritrean delegation taking part in the Sanaa negotiations.

The Ethiopian delegation is led by Mr. Shweandagan Belete, a member of the Political Bureau of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE, in power).

Progress Reported in Talks

LD1104102190 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0831 GMT
11 Apr 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Apr (KUNA)—An Eritrean official announced here today that talks between an Ethiopian delegation and a delegation representing factions of the Eritrean revolution, held in Sanaa under the auspices of the Yemen Arab Republic, are taking firm strides forward.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti News Agency, KUNA, here today, a member of the Executive Committee and head of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces (unified organization), Muhammad Osman Abu-Bakr, said that talks between the two sides have entered their second week and the development of these talks indicates that the two sides are optimistic about reaching an agreement on the issues raised in the preliminary stage of the talks, after the adoption of the proposed agenda by the two sides.

Abu-Bakr said that the international situation and changes in the socialist countries have compelled the two negotiating sides to understand the nature of this stage, which is moving according to the international concord between the two superpowers based on putting out the fires in hotbeds of tension, which include the Horn of Africa region. He said that while fighting the Ethiopian regime, the Eritrean revolution seeks a peaceful and just solution to the Eritrean issue aimed at securing stability and security in the Red Sea and Horn of Africa regions and sparing the Eritrean and Ethiopian peoples the bloody conflict that has been going on for over 29 years.

EPLF Figure Interviewed

PM0604154790 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
10 Apr 90 p 27

[Unattributed interview with Mustafa Nur Husayn, "representative of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front," in Port Sudan; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-MAJALLAH] During the Atlanta and Nairobi talks the Eritrean People's Liberation Front submitted a memorandum calling for a peaceful solution with Ethiopia, but later backtracked on it and decided to step up its combat operations, capturing some Ethiopian towns as a result. What was the reason for the backtracking and the escalation of the fighting in the region?

[Husayn] We met with the Ethiopians in Atlanta and Nairobi in September and November 1989 respectively to negotiate a peaceful solution to the conflict through former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's mediation. We submitted a memorandum of good intent. And if the Ethiopians had accepted that memorandum, we would have agreed to sign a cease-fire. However, the Ethiopian regime rejected the offer despite participants' mediation. The regime reluctantly agreed to hold publicly announced, peaceful negotiations without preconditions and with the participation of a third party as an observer. And when we proposed that the United Nations participate as a third party, the Ethiopians raised obstacles to prevent that. This proved to us that the Ethiopian regime was not serious about achieving a peaceful solution, so we stepped our combat operations.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Was President Carter's initiative a personal one, similar to Camp David? And did you expect him to end the conflict on his own and without the other parties' participation?

[Husayn] Carter's initiative was personal to some extent. The Americans were watching it from a distance and did not want it to become official, which is why it was called Carter's initiative. There was a need for other parties' participation. We held secret talks with the Ethiopians to achieve a peaceful solution, but to no avail. This is why we made it conditional that the Carter talks be publicly announced and attended by other parties. [passage omitted]

[AL-MAJALLAH] Where do you get your food supply and military aid?

[Husayn] Food supplies come from international relief organizations. As for arms supplies, they come from the weapons seized from the Ethiopian Army after their defeat in the war which we waged against it in the liberated areas. We also purchase some weapons with our own money from international markets. And after we captured the port of Mits'iwa we were able to seize very large quantities of oil products, food supplies, and military equipment, thus arming ourselves—in a short period of time—with weapons with which we can fight for several years.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Attacks on foreign ships are unacceptable and regarded as maritime piracy. The Front's attack on the Polish ship Boleslaw [Krzywousty] in January was reported by the media throughout the world. What is your view?

[Husayn] We do not deny that attacking foreign ships is unacceptable. But before the war we issued a warning to

ships not to come close to or enter the area because it was a military zone and entry to it was forbidden.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Have all the Eritrean organizations agreed to achieve a peaceful solution to the problem?

[Husayn] There are some organizations which are trading on the issue politically, although they have no role in it in the first place. We do not recognize these organizations, which have no military presence on the battlefield. [passage omitted]

EPLF Forces Repulse Government Attack 9 Apr

EA1004193090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 1500 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Yesterday The People's Army of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] repulsed the Dergue's second futile and dispirited attempt on the Ginda Front [northeast of Asmera]. In the engagement carried out yesterday, the EPLF People's Army carried out a great counteroffensive and inflicted heavy losses on the Dergue army.

It should be recalled that the Dergue, in its suicide mission on the Ginda Front, which was carried out 28 March-1 April, met with a humiliating defeat. Very heavy losses in men and material were inflicted, and it was crushed to the bone. In the five days of fighting, the dergue lost 5,300 soldiers killed and 8,000 wounded. In addition, seven tanks, and four vehicles loaded with heavy artillery were burned up. Since it entrenched its force on this front four Mig fighter planes were shot down and burned by antiaircraft launchers, wherein two pilots burned to death with their planes, and one was captured by EPLF combatants.

The EPLF takes this opportunity to call upon government agents who are armed by the Dergue to continue their opposition decisively, to turn their guns against their enemy, the Dergue, and stand alongside the EPLF in fighting the Dergue army. The EPLF calls upon oppressed soldiers and NCO's to refrain from losing their lives in an unnecessary war from which they will not benefit in any way, and take decisive action against the high-ranking military officers who are forcing them to commit genocide through the barrel of a gun, and who are massacring them from behind for not fighting against the EPLF. In addition, the EPLF again warns all commanders of the 2d Revolutionary Army in Eritrea to desist from plunging the oppressed soldiers into the futile war which brings no benefits, and to reconsider the role they are playing.

1,500 Government Troops Said Killed

EA1104103290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The enemy made a futile and desperate attempt at an offensive on the Ginda front [northeast of Asmera] for the second day yesterday.

The enemy attempt, which started at 02:30 a.m., continued for some four and a half hours up to 07:00 a.m. The enemy made its futile and suicidal attempt by forcing the troops, who had lost hope and were weakened, to fight, and shooting those who refused from behind. The enemy attempt was supported by intensive air raids and artillery shelling. [passage omitted]

Although we have not yet received complete details, in yesterday's engagement alone the enemy lost 1,500 troops killed and 2,000 wounded. [passage omitted]

EPLF: Government Air Raids on Mitsiwa, Afabet
EA1104115890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] The EPLF [Eritrean People's Liberation Front] has exposed the lies of the Dergue government which it presented through [words indistinct] and television, saying that it had not conducted air raids on Mitsiwa and Afabet.

The shameless denial by the Addis Ababa government of the persistent and barbarous air raids conducted by its war planes over Mitsiwa and Afabet for four days is aimed at confusing the Ethiopian people and the world and preventing possible pressure from various quarters.

The EPLF notes that the air raids carried out over Mitsiwa and Afabet have been recorded on video film every day, and it has invited observers to come to investigate and see for themselves the air raids carried out on innocent civilians, their property, and their houses, and the disaster inflicted.

It is to be recalled that during the barbarous air raids carried out by Ethiopian fighter aircraft over Mitsiwa on 4, 6, 7, and 8 April and over Afabet on 3 April, 89 people, most of them women and children, were killed, over 250 others wounded, and over 200 houses destroyed.

Uganda

Culture Minister Arrested for 'Treason'

AB0904122290 Paris AFP in English 1205 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Kampala, April 9 (AFP)—Moses Ali, Uganda's youth, sports and culture minister, has been arrested for treason, Inspector General of Police David Psomgen announced.

Mr Psomgen said in a statement, broadcast Sunday night by Radio Uganda, that Brigadier Ali had been arrested for treason and held to facilitate investigations.

Brigadier Ali's arrest followed a joint police and army operation in his office, residence and business premises during which more than 20 people were arrested.

According to his relatives, Brigadier Ali was arrested at the Entebbe State House, where he had been summoned by President Yoweri Museveni. He is believed to be under detention at the Lubiri Military Barracks near Kampala.

Some employees of the "GUIDE" newspaper, which is owned and run by the minister, were also arrested during the operation and cassettes, tape recorders and video camera impounded. The minister's official residence in Kampala was still guarded by troops on Monday morning.

Brigadier Ali, a former finance minister and close aide to dictator Idi Amin, is the only surviving leader of rebel guerrilla groups that joined Mr. Museveni's National Resistance Army (NRA) after the fall of the regime of General Tito Okello in January 1986.

Following negotiations with Mr Museveni, his National Rescue Front (NRF) forces were integrated into the NRA. Brigadier Ali was subsequently appointed minister of tourism and wildlife in 1986. He was moved to the present portfolio in a cabinet reshuffle last year.

Last February, a dozen NRA officers that formerly belonged to Brigadier Ali's NRF were arrested and are still being held on treason charges.

Brigadier Ali, who was then leading Ugandan contingent to the Auckland Commonwealth games, had been rumoured to be among those sought by the authorities on the same charges.

Nelson Mandela To Meet UK's Thatcher 'Later'

*MB1004163890 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1634 GMT 10 Apr 90*

[Excerpts] London April 10 SAPA—ANC [African National Congress] Deputy President Nelson Mandela's world travel agenda up to July was provisional, and nothing should be read into the fact Britain was not specifically mentioned in the list issued by Lusaka headquarters, the organisation's London office indicated on Tuesday. [passage omitted]

The ANC's London office pointed out the list was provisional and that, although France had been specifically mentioned, the European Economic Community generally, of which Britain is a leading member, had been included.

British Premier Margaret Thatcher's open invitation to Mr Mandela to come to London for talks at any time convenient to him has not yet been taken up.

Mrs Thatcher lifted some sanctions measures against South Africa when Mr Mandela was released in February and this has angered the ANC, which continues to call for total isolation of Mr de Klerk's government.

Mr Mandela has on a number of occasions already spoken of his respect for Mrs Thatcher and the importance of a meeting, but he will not be contacting Downing Street when he arrives in London at the weekend to attend an Easter Monday pop festival in his honour.

The ANC's chief representative in Britain, Mendi Msimang, confirmed this earlier in the week, adding Mrs Thatcher's invitation would be "taken up later, when Mr Mandela hopes to return for an official visit, which will form part of a tour including the United States and Canada". [passage omitted]

Mandela Rejects Talks With Inkatha's Buthelezi

*MB1004185390 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 10 Apr 90*

[Text] African National Congress [ANC] Deputy President Nelson Mandela has dismissed as foolish allegations that the ANC is urging black South Africans to murder whites and take over their homes.

Addressing a news conference in Lusaka this afternoon, Comrade Mandela strongly dismissed the allegations and pointed out that these were attempts to scare white South Africans from the ANC. He noted that since the unbanning of the party, a number of whites were expressing willingness to associate with the African National Congress. He said it is foolish for anyone to suggest that the ANC could advocate racist policies at this crucial stage when they are going toward negotiations with the South African Government.

Meanwhile, Comrade Mandela has strongly stated that he has no intention of meeting KwaZulu Chief Buthelezi over the recent violence in Natal. Comrade Mandela was

answering questions from newsmen at a news conference held in Lusaka's Mulungushi International Conference Center following the meeting of the national executive of the ANC in Lusaka.

He also dispelled reports that there were divisions in the leadership of the ANC and stressed that the party was united.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha Interviewed

*LD1104084690 East Berlin ADN International Service
in German 0605 GMT 11 Apr 90*

[Text] Cape Town (ADN correspondent)—The South African Government sees itself irrevocably obliged to eliminate racist discrimination in South Africa, foreign Minister Roelof [Pik] Botha stated in a talk with ADN in Cape Town. It is ready for negotiations on a new constitution for the country which will gain the approval of the majority of whites, blacks, coloreds, and South Africans of Asian origin.

The new basic law would give the black population full political rights, Botha said. Pretoria is also ready to clear up in talks the matters which the African National Congress [ANC] sees as obstacles to the commencement of substantive negotiations. The government for its part views it as an obstacle when the ANC says it is against violence but then supports the continuation of the armed struggle. Botha stated that he has every reason to believe that the open questions can be clarified with goodwill on both sides and that the path towards negotiations will then be free. Alongside the ANC, those political groupings which have sufficient support among the black population should also participate in the negotiations.

As the South African foreign minister stressed, the government and the ANC now need encouragement from the world to proceed along the path which has been taken. Otherwise, he sees a danger that the governing National Party could be replaced by parties far to its right. The steps introduced by Pretoria to date have not been taken because of, but rather despite the international sanctions against his country. In his opinion, sanctions are rather an obstacle to the changes envisaged in South Africa.

His vision of a new South Africa is a country led by a mixed government representative of all population groups. There will then be conditions that allow constant economic growth and reduction of unemployment. South Africa can then become a greater economic unit together with other states of the region, such as in Western Europe. His country is ready to share its considerable experiences in mining and in other areas with the other states in southern Africa for the well being of all, and to advance together with them into a new future.

In the relations between South Africa and the countries of Eastern and Central Europe, there are a host of matters that could be improved, Botha opined. South

Africa, which no longer defends apartheid, is interested in finding out "how we can proceed".

In the words of the minister, the Eastern and Central European countries are, to be sure, not as highly developed as some Western states, but still have technologies and goods very useful for South Africa, which has in part the characteristics of a developing country. On the other hand, his country possesses a rich fund of technological experience which would be of advantage to the other side. All possibilities presenting themselves in this regard will be attentively checked by South Africa.

Events in the GDR in recent months are supported without limitation by his government, the foreign minister stressed. "We are completely aware of how complex these matters are," he said. He compared the process that has been set in motion between the GDR and the FRG with a river, and he would like to see that "this river runs safely to the sea".

Botha stated that the South African Government welcomes the new developments in Germany. "We are interested in your wellbeing and wish you stability and economic prosperity. We desire you to be successful and achieve a higher standard of living. We hope that you overcome your problems."

Qwaqwa Chief Minister Admitted to Hospital

*MB1104140490 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1113 GMT 11 Apr 90*

[Text] Phuthaditjhaba April 11 SAPA—The chief minister of Qwaqwa, Dr T.K. Mopeli, was admitted to the Manapo Hospital at Phuthaditjhaba on Wednesday [11 April] morning, reports SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news.

The acting chief minister and minister of education, Chief R.H. Mopeli, told the legislative assembly a doctor had said Dr Mopeli was suffering from high blood pressure.

SAPA Reports Production Figures for Jan, Feb

*MB1104135090 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1334 GMT 11 Apr 90*

[Text] Johannesburg April 11 SAPA—South Africa's year on year producer price index in February was lower than the same rate for January.

The figure in the second month was 12.9 per cent up on last February while the increase for January on January was 14.1 per cent.

The February 1990 figure was 0.9 per cent higher than that of January.

Locally produced products for South African consumption compared to 1989 rose by 12.6 per cent, down on January's rate of 12.2 per cent.

The annualised rate of increase for imported goods was also down on January's 14.4 per cent at 13.3 per cent.

The monthly increase for imported commodities was up by 1.1 per cent.

The index for the total output of South African industry was down from 13.2 to 12.2 per cent in February.

The biggest monthly increase was in non-metallic mineral products (four per cent) and metal products (2.3 per cent).

11 Apr Press Review on Current Problems, Issues MB1104122490

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Call for Less Secretive Johannesburg City Council—The Johannesburg City Council has been taken over by the Democratic Party (DP) "in the nick of time" and will be administered by a management committee that "proclaims a vision of an open, apartheid-free city in which all residents have a future," says Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 11 April in a page 16 editorial. THE STAR is not concerned that the committee is a coalition of DP and National Party members "provided only that its members are held together by this common vision and not political opportunism." THE STAR also hopes the council adopts a "less secretive style of administration, a more protective approach to public open areas and a more conservative approach to grandiose spending schemes."

People's Courts 'Barbaric Justice'—A second editorial on the same page remarks that the proposal by the Tembisa Youth Congress to reintroduce "people's courts" to combat township crime "stirs memories of the barbaric 'justice' that was meted out during the 1984-86 unrest." "Nothing can justify the use of a system more suited to bloodthirsty regimes." "No doubt there is much wrong with our legal system, and it will have to be reformed. But to substitute untrained, emotionally involved, politically motivated people to sit in summary judgement on their fellows can only take us back to the dark ages."

BUSINESS DAY

New 'Alignment' in White Politics—Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 11 April in a page 6 editorial says the DP's capture of the Johannesburg City Council "achieved with the help of verligte [enlightened] Nationalists" has "exposed a new alignment of forces under the surface of white politics." "When verligte Nationalists make common cause with the DP in order to hold at bay a rival coalition consisting of their own verkramptes [ultraconservative] and the Conservative Party [CP] members, it is plain that the main line of cleavage in white politics runs through the middle of the National Party; the tendency for like to seek like must in

time prove irresistible." BUSINESS DAY notes the National Party has been "relaxing" many of the restrictions required by apartheid, beginning with labor laws, pass laws, and job reservations." The DP, "meanwhile, has shown great ambivalence about reducing the role of government, its trust of markets apparently outweighed by a distrust of capitalists. None of this makes it easy to define the differences between the parties; that there has been a great deal of convergence is plain but for the time being the principal common interest is to prevent the accession of power of the right wing, composed party of the CP and partly of verkrampete Nationalists."

Misgivings About Curbs on Court Reporting—"The bare announcement that the government proposes to impose curbs on court reporting leaves its intentions obscure but it is reason for the most serious misgivings," declares a second editorial on the same page. "If the government persists in trying to remedy the situation by its usual ham-fisted methods, we have no hesitation in predicting that the courts—like the armed forces, the police, the prisons, and other institutions shielded from public scrutiny, will in time suffer a calamitous loss of credibility."

SOWETAN

CP Sows Panic Among Whites—Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 11 April in a page 8 editorial

says the CP's Andries Treurnicht "prefers to sow panic among South Africans" by telling the media the government is suppressing information about an African National Congress (ANC) "plot" to assassinate right wing leaders. "White South Africans are already anxious about their future and they are still trying to reconcile themselves to the ANC suddenly changing from being terrorists to being respectable visitors to Tuynhuys, State President F.W. de Klerk's official residence." Treurnicht means to "incite" the people and "get them in the mood for the rally that the CP is organising for May 26. The hoax pamphlet that suggests that blacks are planning to attack whites is also playing up to white fears."

THE NATAL WITNESS

Difficult for Mandela To Control Uneducated Youth—Pietrmaritzburg THE NATAL WITNESS in English for 24 February in a page 4 editorial remarks that many black adolescents "have been denied a normal education and have lost faith in the guidance of their parents and teachers." "Their latent bitterness is like a ticking bomb in the townships and even Nelson Mandela is going to find it hard to control this unruly element which will form the first wave of job seekers in the new South Africa." "Of all the problems facing the country at this critical time, none is greater than the need for crash courses in black education."

Angola**Commentary Criticizes 'Distorted' U.S. Position**

MB1004202990 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1935
GMT 10 Apr 90

[Commentary: "Correspondence and Distortion"]

[Text] Talking about the Angolan peace process, a group of U.S. Congressmen recently alleged UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] wanted peace more than the Angolan Government.

This clear distortion of the truth had to do with a strange correspondence in the reactions of the government and the rebel movement to Namibia's independence.

From the viewpoint of those congressmen, the Angolan head of state—let us add he was the guest of honor most greeted at Namibia's independence ceremony—was only happy about the strategic alterations the new state will bring, while Savimbi, in their opinion, praised the most important development, namely better prospects for multiparty democracy in Angola.

When they made those statements, the U.S. Congressmen forgot [words indistinct] the Angolan Government has taken the initiative and made every effort to pacify the country. President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has shown an extraordinary commitment to this process.

Today, for instance, the Angolan Government has interpreted the Angolan people's deepest aspirations and has proposed direct talks with UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola]. Ironically, this rebel gang claims it is ready for peace, but adds it will continue to make Luanda's life impossible.

While the Angolan Government explores every possible path for a quick negotiated settlement to the internal conflict, UNITA is more concerned with planting bombs in cities and villages as well as destroying the people's possessions in order to prolong their suffering.

As the world knows, the Angolan Government was the promoter of the Gbadolite Summit of 18 African heads of state, an unprecedented initiative in African history. The Angolan Government went to the summit of eight African heads of state in Kinshasa [words indistinct] the UNITA ringleader and, finally, the Angolan Government was also at the source of the Sao Tome and Principe Summit that appears to have revived a process that had become lethargic because it was vulnerable to hostility from the U.S. Government.

[Words indistinct] President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, suppressing his own [words indistinct] and showing he is a first-rate modern statesman whose seriousness and responsibility are incompatible with the leadership style of those who want to transform this state into a mere auction sale or soccer stakes for the sake of publicity. He

has known how to honor his promises and has done everything to break the deadlock despite the UNITA chief's negative attitude.

Within this context, it is important to note President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' recent interviews in Windhoek with De Klerk, the new South African head of state, and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Both had the opportunity to assess his openness, the depth of his desire for peace, and serious and responsible manner in which he deals with every possibility for peace.

He has demonstrated this desire for peace—which the U.S. Congressmen say is clearer on UNITA's side—by officially announcing the Angolan Government's willingness to enter into direct contacts with UNITA elements in the near future.

Ironically this time, the gang that used to claim the government did not want to talk, now says it cannot talk with a knife at its throat.

It is obvious that, assured by similar interference by the U.S. Congressmen on previous occasions, the UNITA gang will always try to sabotage the peace process. This happened with the Alvor Accords, the Gbadolite Compromises, and other efforts by the Angolan Government to pacify the country.

Moreover, we ask: What were the real intentions of the U.S. Congressmen when they made those statements? Did they only seek to disrupt peace efforts?

In fact, the stand taken by that handful of U.S. Congressmen is yet another ploy to prolong the war in Angola and disrupt plans for Angola's gradual and realistic democratization.

To deal with such obstinate behavior, the Angolan people rely on their own political, diplomatic, military, and other forces as well as with the international community which recognizes Angola as a sovereign state with an unquestioned government able to gather prestige at international forums.

UNITA Reports 10 Apr Military Situation

MB1104055990 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 0500 GMT 11 Apr 90

[“Political and military situation report” at 1200 GMT on 10 April—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] units on the Mavinga front are still besieged. There has been renewed fighting since 0800 on 9 April 1990. A total of 15 FAPLA soldiers, including the 4th Group's counterintelligence chief, have been killed in the past 24 hours.

2. At 0630 on 10 April our forces stormed the enemy's Monte Belo barracks, which were protected by forces of the 176th Brigade. After a 90-minute clash, the enemy was put to flight, abandoning six FAPLA dead, four AK

weapons, and 12 plotting boards. Our forces destroyed three military vehicles and three military buildings.

3. In Huila Province our forces attacked a military column carrying troops and military equipment between Cacuia and Caluquembe. Seven vehicles were destroyed and nine FAPLA soldiers were burned to death. Our forces captured six small weapons.

4. The armed struggle will continue until the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] recognizes the chaotic state in which it has plunged the country and recognizes that peace and democracy in Angola can only be achieved through direct talks with UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola].

*** UNITA Admits Mavinga Situation 'Confusing'**

90EF0308A Lisbon O DIABO in Portuguese
27 Feb 90 pp 16-17

[Article by M.S.]

[Text] The case of the war in Angola is continuing to hold the attention of U.S. politicians and analysts. The National Security Council (NSC), the Senate Committees on Foreign Relations, Intelligence, and Defense, the CIA [Central Intelligence Agency], the NSA [National Security Agency], the Department of Defense and the DIA [Defense Intelligence Agency], the White House, and the Department of State are watching every step of the process. And they are worried.

One of O DIABO's correspondents in Washington was told by a member of the NSC: "In Washington, UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] is becoming a matter of life or death. No one wants to appear to be throwing more logs on the fire, but neither does anyone want to run the risk of being blamed later for a military defeat in southern Angola."

A Washington political analyst with close ties to the Heritage Foundation, a conservative institution, told us: "I can tell you that there are even plans to provide UNITA with a minimal air force if the taking of Jamba becomes imminent." According to his information, the United States might try in such a case to make up for one of the most glaring shortcomings in Jonas Savimbi's movement: the absence of air support due to the fact that because of its serious problems at home, South Africa has neither the forces for resuming such support nor any intention of doing so. The aircraft to be supplied to UNITA would have to pass through Zaire and would be of the F-5E Tiger-II type—a fighter-bomber with accessible though somewhat obsolete technology that could have a devastating surprise effect on FAPLA [People's Forces for the Liberation of Angola]. The F-5's could use a landing strip which reportedly has been constructed near Liciua or even the landing strip at Jamba if the latter were "made somewhat larger." Another possibility would be the use of ground attack helicopters of the Cobra type, but these would be more vulnerable to fire from the ground or from Luanda's MiG's and Sukhois.

Who would pilot those aircraft? Our source said: "Not Americans, that's for sure."

It is known that Jamba has been visited by Israeli-trained Zairian and Moroccan officers, of whom some are qualified to command "sophisticated" artillery batteries and others can pilot "advanced aircraft."

Mavinga: What Is Happening?

UNITA itself acknowledges that the situation in Mavinga is confusing. Some of its sources admit that the airfield was occupied for several days in early February by special groups from the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] that were later forced to withdraw. But it is also said that news reports from Luanda saying that Savimbi's forces had "recaptured" the town in ruins are intended only to justify, in the eyes of Luanda public opinion, the fact that FAPLA has never really taken the essential part of the locality, which consists of a well-built system of underground bunkers and antiaircraft defenses.

It is known, however, that the fighting was merciless and included the summary execution of prisoners by both sides. It is also reported that long-range UNITA groups found FAPLA soldiers near the Lomba River who had died of hunger or thirst several days earlier owing to the destruction of successive reinforcement columns sent out from Cuito Cuanavale and from Menongue, which is even farther away. According to some sources, those columns included hundreds of armored personnel carriers and reconnaissance vehicles (BMP's, BRDM's, and BTR's) as well as SA-13 mobile missile launchers, T-5 and T-62 tanks, and a Cuban rapid intervention battalion which reportedly later refrained from advancing to the battlefield.

U.S., Soviet Aid

Although it is no longer supplying modern equipment "on credit," the USSR is continuing to sell modern weapons to the MPLA. Use of many of those weapons is restricted to units integrated with the Cuban contingent. One well-informed source told us: "Some of those weapons could not be used a few months from now, because by then they will be in the hands of the forces that must leave Angola." He concluded by saying: "That is one reason why the MPLA had to attack now."

The same source told us: "In any case, the scene north of Mavinga is impressive. The rivers are cluttered with the carcasses of trucks and armored vehicles. Even UNITA committed a few units of conventional armor to the conflict—including a few T-55 and PT-76 tanks captured from FAPLA some time back." A communique sent to us through UNITA and referring to 20 February says, in fact, that Savimbi's men lost 8 T-55 tanks and 8 BTR-60 armored vehicles, compared to 58 T-55 tanks and 117 BMP-1's lost by FAPLA.

The MPLA has continued to make sizable bombing raids, using MiG-23's and 27's against Mucundi, and Su-22's and Su-25's against Mavinga.

For its part, UNITA has reportedly launched attacks to the north and even tried to strike blows against important MPLA bases such as those in Munhango and Luena, from where aircraft capable of attacking Jamba can take off. The United States has increased its C-130 flights from Zaire to Jamba, delivering dozens of missile systems: Stingers, Avengers (Stingers mounted on light vehicles), Roland (probably acquired through Paris), and a type of longer-range rocket—apparently the Chaparral—coupled with rapid-firing Vulcan guns. Many of those weapons, as well as towed and self-propelled versions of the TOW antitank missile and LAW antitank rockets, reportedly went to the vicinity of Mavinga.

It is also said that the United States is thinking of providing UNITA with 10.5 and 15.5 [as published] howitzers, heavy mortars, and light armor, as well as "special forces" equipment, including precision rifles, night vision equipment, and sensors. The amount of communications equipment and electronic warfare equipment has also been increased.

Crucial Months

The next few months may be crucial. Savimbi will have to reinforce Mavinga, if he can hold on to it, and he will need to beef up to some extent his ability to put pressure on the north. The problem of air support will also have to be faced in "a very serious manner," to quote a South African military man speaking to us from Pretoria.

But the outcome over the next few months will also depend on another factor: FAPLA's situation in the rear, especially as regards supplies and logistics. Another question is what the MPLA wants to do: will it move forces that might be needed in the north and deploy them all in the Mavinga area? Will it decide not to repeat the intensity of the current offensive? Or will it shift once again to a negotiating position?

Above all, Jonas Savimbi will now want to know whether the very intensive U.S. aid in the military area can be accompanied by political pressure on the MPLA. And if things get complicated in the south, it may be necessary once again to consider transferring bases, men, and equipment to the north, with Zaire providing the "corridor" which the South Africans have traditionally maintained in northern Namibia.

* Possible Advisers to MPLA Listed

90EF0308B *Lisbon O DIABO in Portuguese*
27 Feb 90 p 17

[Text] The top Portuguese military adviser to Jose Eduardo dos Santos seems to be a former major in the Portuguese Army, Eliseo de Figueiredo. Considered a "moderate" opposed to most of the theses which led Rosa Coutinho to recruit mercenaries for Angola, he

often visits Lisbon and distinguished himself by wiping out many of the actions by UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] in Lunda's factories as far back as the early 1980's.

Eliseo de Figueiredo was trained as a commando, has never had any major ideological leanings, and was one of the men who, along with Pezarat Correira, controlled the former Katanga gendarmes in northern Angola who made Mobutu think twice about his geostrategic plans. There are those who say that Figueiredo was in Lubango and then in Cuito Cuanavale around the time that FAPLA [People's Forces for the Liberation of Angola] launched its operation in the south.

Captain Leitao Fernandes and Captain Amarante are two other former Portuguese officers mentioned as having cooperated with the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] military machine. Also mentioned are Lieutenant Gil, a former commando, and from 20 to 30 other former NCO's and enlisted men who served in Portugal's Overseas Army. Almost all of them are said to be serving as commanders or as advisers on guerrilla warfare, antiguerrilla warfare, and long-range reconnaissance patrols (LRRP). None of them has been directly involved in the current offensive, although they may have helped plan the operation.

It is said that the Portuguese serving the MPLA regime went there in three "levies." The first two were planned by Rosa Coutinho, but the last one is said to have been organized in other quarters. Generally, soldiers are attracted by the promise of hefty pay—paid in dollars and probably transferable abroad—that is never less than 600,000 escudos per month. But there have been a few quarrels and problems resulting in "resignations," particularly in the area of helicopter support for FAPLA.

Men From the East

The Cuban contingent and its history are common knowledge, although the question still exists as to the extent to which Cuban soldiers, especially blacks, have adopted Angolan nationality. There are probably still a few hundred Soviet military advisers, about 30 of whom probably commanded the operational center that launched the current offensive.

There are also indications that men from the GDR, Czechoslovakia, and Poland—former members of the security (special police) and defense (elite forces) apparatuses—are advising MPLA units, especially in the field of operational training in heavy vehicle operation and maintenance, missile systems, artillery, and aircraft. Our sources tell us that the newly arrived advisers include two East German officers named Munz and Dietz (or Dieter) and another, probably Bulgarian, officer named Belov who are "disillusioned by certain features of the current political process in the East."

It is very possible that the Su-25 Frogfoot fighter planes recently brought into the conflict are not being piloted by Angolans.

Malawi

* Policy Toward South Africa Proved 'Correct'

34000505B Blantyre MALAWI NEWS in English
10-16 Feb 90 p 6

[Article by Malawi News Analysis]

[Excerpts] At long last, recent developments appear to indicate that the South African government is taking practical steps to solve the country's political logjam.

In what has been described as the most far-reaching commitment undertaken by a South African President since the ruling National Party came to power in 1948, President F.W. de Klerk announced on February 2 his decision to lift a 30-year-old ban on the African National Congress (ANC). [passage omitted]

Mr de Klerk has taken a bold step to meet some of the conditions laid down by the ANC and other anti-apartheid organizations as a basis for beginning negotiations to determine the future of South Africa.

It is now up to the black South Africans to respond to his overtures and begin the process of formulating a constitution for a new South Africa which will be acceptable to people of all races in that country regardless of their political or religious persuasions.

Since independence, Malawi has campaigned tirelessly at international fora for which she is a member the policy of negotiation rather than confrontation in seeking a solution to the complex political situation in South Africa and indeed other areas of conflict in the world.

Her steadfast stand on relations with South Africa had earned her isolation for quite sometime. But today, this country has been proved right and discussions between warring factions are taking place across the globe to solve their feuds.

The very countries which were in the forefront of criticizing Malawi for openly dealing with South Africa are now trailing her example and doing exactly the same.

They have realized that showering verbal insults never succeeded in changing the racial segregation stance of white South Africans.

Malawi has used her relations with Pretoria to influence the whites on the need to talk to the Africans of that country, end the evil system of apartheid which she abhors and share power with their black counterparts.

Mr de Klerk needs to be given credit and support for having responded to this call which his predecessors had ignored. [passage omitted].

Mauritius

* Duval Misses Appointments for Medical Reasons

* Absent From PMSD Meeting
90EF0317A Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French
29 Jan 90 p 1

[Excerpts] Sir Gaetan Duval, the leader of the Mauritian Social Democrat Party (PMSD), was unable to attend the meeting his party organized on Sunday at Plaine-Verte because of illness. His close colleagues, when questioned by L'EXPRESS, did their best to use reassuring language when speaking of the health and morale of the PMSD leader. [passages omitted.]

* Suffering From Hypertension
90EF0317B Port Louis THE SUN in French
24 Feb 90 p 1

[First paragraph is THE SUN lead]

[Excerpts]

• Another medical certificate for Sir Gaetan Duval
Sir Gaetan Duval, the number-one defendant in the current preliminary investigation being conducted in the Flacq court, did not appear in court on Thursday.

Ranjeet Maybadee, known as Baron, Gaetan Duval's secretary, presented two letters from Sir Gaetan to Judge Hossen, who presides over the court.

One of the letters contained a medical certificate from Dr. M.A. Kodaboccus, MBBS, stating that he had examined Sir Gaetan at 8:40 that morning at Floreal and that he was suffering from hypertension and so "is unable to attend court today." [passages omitted]

Namibia

Gurirab Says Diplomatic Relations Important
MB1004170590 Windhoek Domestic Service
in Afrikaans 1900 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, said that the establishment of diplomatic relations with other countries would ensure that Namibia would play an integral role in the international community. Mr. Gurirab said that international relations would assist in obtaining capital for Namibia as well as sources of revenue. He said that it would also assist in creating a solution to the ever increasing problem of housing, agriculture, health and social services.

Discusses Future Ties

MB1004170890 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1049 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Windhoek April 9 SAPA—Namibia's minister of foreign affairs, Mr Theo-Ben Gurirab says the establishment of diplomatic relations with other countries will ensure that Namibia becomes an integral part of the international community.

According to a NAMBC [Namibian Broadcasting Cooperation] radio new report Mr Girirab said international relations would help to create capital for the country as well as income resources. Relations with foreign countries would also help to establish sources for the solution of serious problems in the fields of housing, agriculture, health and social services.

Mr Gurirab said about 80 countries had indicated they would establish diplomatic relations with Namibia.

Earlier, Mr Gurirab said Namibia's diplomatic personnel would not only be selected from the ranks of the ruling party, SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization], but from the whole spectrum of the country's inhabitants. The only principle applicable to the appointments was that the personnel would act in Namibia's best interests.

Regarding Namibia's relationship with South Africa, he said Namibia would continue, as a member of the international community, to exert pressure on South Africa to abolish apartheid.

It was essential, Mr Gurirab said, for this reason, to continue with sanctions against the country.

He confirmed that negotiations had already begun to establish channels for talks. The two countries had to resolve various matters of which Walvis Bay was the most important.

Mr Gurirab said it was expected that future relations between the two countries would be constructive and friendly.

Government Applies for United Nations Membership

MB1104071490 Windhoek Domestic Service
in Afrikaans 0600 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Namibia has applied to join the United Nations as its 160th member nation before the commencement of the special UN sitting later this month.

The application is contained in a letter from President Sam Nujoma to the United Nations in which Mr. Nujoma states that Namibia undertakes to accept and act according to the stipulations outlined in the UN Charter.

Namibia's membership in this international organization will enable it to participate in the General Assembly's special sitting on economic (matters) which will

take place from 23 to 28 April in New York. The application has to be approved by the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.

11 Apr Press Review on Current Problems, Issues

WA1104153090

[Editorial Report]

DIE REPUBLIKEIN

ANC Finds Talks 'Escape Routes'—Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans on 5 April in its page 4 editorial refers to the ANC's [African National Congress] cancellation of talks with the government and of a joint Inkatha-ANC rally, saying it creates the following two questions: "Are there problems in the ANC ranks, and is that the reason for doing away with the opportunity to have talks? How does this ANC behavior influence the international status the ANC is enjoying?" "With regard to tension in the ANC it is now publicly asked why so much persistent emphasis is made that the ANC has only one leader, Oliver Tambo." DIE REPUBLIKEIN believes that to "find reasons not to talk is at the moment one of the easiest escape routes."

Seychelles*** Mancham's Platform To Oust Rene Discussed**

34000539 Durban THE DAILY NEWS in English
8 Mar 90 p 12

[Article by Garner Thomson]

[Text] Former Seychelles premier James Mancham is launching what he promises will be a "worldwide initiative" to oust President Albert Rene from power and restore the islands to multiparty democracy.

Mr Mancham, deposed from the office of President in June, 1977, believes the "whole world is moving in the direction of peace and multi-party democracies; therefore, like everywhere else, the time has come for us to do the same".

Speaking this week from his London base, Mr Mancham referred to his recent address to the House of Commons as "the first step in a gradual, world-wide campaign" to gain support for his Crusade for Democracy in Seychelles.

"I will be meeting various important officials in Washington, soon, and we expect things to develop from there," he said.

Mr Mancham, a champion throughout his political career in the Seychelles of integration with Britain, believes the United Kingdom still has a special responsibility towards the islands.

He recalls, with some bitterness, how the Foreign Office distanced itself from him following news of the Rene coup, and failed thereafter to act on Mr Rene's abolition of free speech, trade unions and the right of assembly, and the introduction of imprisonment without trial.

"Mr Rene wasted no time after the coup to ban the Seychelles Democratic Party, which meant that his minority party was in effect suppressing the rights of the majority. Of course, he was able to do so because in less than 24 hours heavily armed Tanzanian troops were all over the islands."

The Seychelles coup, he says, was "a flagrant violation" of the Seychelles Constitution which was signed at the end of a long constitutional conference in London, as the basis of the Seychelles Independence Order 1976, under which the Seychelles became an independent republic within the Commonwealth in June, 1976.

"The Seychelles had a Constitution which was agreed to and welcomed by Rene," Mr Mancham said.

"But that Constitution was abolished following his coup. Now, he is ruling by Presidential Decree—and it is for the return of that Constitution that we are now campaigning."

Much of the Seychelles' problem, he added, were the result of "geo-political considerations" and the activities of the Superpowers in the Indian Ocean and their view of Seychelles as "unsinkable aircraft-carriers".

"It is clear that our problem is directly and indirectly the result of policy pursued by the British and American governments over the last few years.

"Insofar as the tracking station built on Mahe (with our agreement, because we regarded the United States as the champions of democracy) is concerned, it was fraudulent and dishonest for them not to have openly disclosed to the people of Seychelles that far from it being just a facility to monitor space satellites, its major function was to spy on Soviet satellites, and reposition American surveillance satellites over strategic areas.

"In brief, it means that if ever there was a conflict with the USSR, the small island of Mahe would be a priority target for destruction. This is why President Bush, Mr Gorbachev and Mrs Thatcher must in all fairness address themselves to the problems of the Indian Ocean if they are sincerely interested in lessening international tension and securing lasting peace".

To avoid confronting the issues of the Indian Ocean, he believes, is to deliberately blind themselves to "developments taking place throughout the whole world".

"Even in South Africa, Nelson Mandela has been released and is calling for a multi-party democracy—just as all the world is calling for a multi-party democracy," he said.

"Nelson Mandela represents the majority in South Africa, just as we represent the majority in Seychelles."

Ivory Coast**Bank Union Secretary Ousted for 'Betrayal'**
*AB1004181990 Paris AFP in English 1811 GMT
10 Apr 90*

[Text] Abidjan, April 10 (AFP)—Ivory Coast bank workers began a two-day strike Tuesday to protest a government decision to cut salaries by up to 40 per cent, national radio said here.

The situation in the country was reported otherwise calm after last week's demonstrations and violence between students and security forces in which a youth was killed. The government responded last Saturday by closing all schools and universities for the rest of the academic year.

The strike, called late Monday by the national banking, financial and insurance union, was largely successful and many would-be customers who had not heard the news were surprised to find the banks closed, observers said.

The strike call also came as a surprise to many Moslem bank employees who had gone home early to eat on Monday because of Ramadan.

The union had called a 72-hour strike for March 17 but abandoned the plan the same day after union Secretary General Suzanne Taho had talks with the authorities.

But on Monday a statement reached AGENCIE FRANCE-PRESSE saying that Mrs. Taho had been ousted on charges of "betrayal," and that she had been replaced by a provisional committee.

Four Ivory Coast banks are in liquidation and others are carrying out sweeping restructuring because of a cash crisis.

The government on March 31 announced that it was cutting wages by between eight and 40 per cent.

Finance Managers Issue Communique

*AB1104090090 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 11 Apr 90*

[Text] Concerning the situation in the banks, here is a communique issued by the Professional Association of Banks and Financial Institutions of Ivory Coast:

Without prior notice, and to their great surprise, bank and financial institutions managers, on 9 April at 1800, received from a self-styled provisional committee a 48-hour strike order to be observed from 10 to 11 April 1990. The association would like to stress that the legal formalities have not been completed as far as the setting up of this provisional committee and strike are concerned. Since there is no conflict between employers and employees, the management of banks and financial institutions ask their workers not to join in this illegal action but to resume work tomorrow at 0730 without fail. While regretting the inconvenience experienced by customers, management informs customers that all measures will be taken to ensure security and normal banking operations.

Workers Strike Continues

*AB1104104590 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
1000 GMT 11 Apr 90*

[Text] For two days running, the doors and counters of banks and insurance companies have remained closed, at least most of them, since some clients still have access to the automatic cash machines at banks that have them. Our reporters could tell from the scene this morning in front of branches of banks in the Plateau [commercial center of Abidjan] district that the strike continues.

Since yesterday, employees of banking, financial, and insurance institutions have been on a two-day strike. Bank employers, after expressing surprise at this strike, which they termed as unjustified, last night called on workers to resume work this morning. The bank workers union also made a similar call adding that the strike was illegal.

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12 April 1990

